

This report contains summary data from the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). Data is provided as a courtesy for the board and is intended to be used for informational purposes only.

Notices:

- The new Apriss contract started April 1st. Updated user manuals and dispensation guides will be uploaded soon to pdmp.alaska.gov.
- License integration is tentatively scheduled to go live on June 15th. Need to upgrade the specifications to include the newly created license types.
- The Awareness and Feedback Questionnaire is in development and will available in June.

Registration

PDMP registrations are still being processed from the renewal period which ended April 1, 2021.

Portal (Professional license system)

Physician Assistants

Number of licensed Physician Assistants: 749
Number of PDMP Physician Assistants registrations: 505
Number of Physician Assistants with DEA registrations: 541
Directly dispensing: 42
Compliance rate (PDMP and DEA registrations): 93%

Physicians (includes Podiatrists and Medical Residents)

Number of licensed Physicians: 5,228
Number of PDMP Physicians registrations: 3,457
Number of Physicians with DEA registrations: 3,792
Directly dispensing: 319
Compliance rate (PDMP and DEA registrations): 91%

AWARxE (PDMP)

Number registered with the PDMP: 4,806
Physician: 3,755
Physician Assistants: 682
Medical Resident with Prescriptive Authority: 43
Podiatrists: 26

Use – Review Compliance (Physicians, Podiatrists, Medical Residents, and PA’s)

Federally scheduled II – III, over a three-day supply (some specialties omitted)
Q4 2020: 44.22% (57,095 dispensations; 25,247 searched)
Q1 2021: 44.36% (54,986 dispensations; 24,393 searched)

MME Use (Q4 2020/Q1 2021)

Physician Assistants

Number of patients treated with over 90 MME: 572 (38% increase from Q3/Q4 2020)
Number of patients treated with over 120 MME: 198 (11% increase from Q3/Q4 2020)

Number of patients treated with dangerous combinations (benzodiazepines and opioids): 577
(20% decrease from Q3/Q4 2020)

Number of patients treated with dangerous combinations (benzodiazepines, opioids,
carisoprodol): 12 (29% increase from Q3/Q4 2020)

Physicians

Number of patients treated with over 90 MME: 1,190 (3% increase from Q3/Q4 2020)

Number of patients treated with over 120 MME: 536 (7% increase from Q3/Q4 2020)

Number of patients treated with dangerous combinations (benzodiazepines and opioids): 2,824
(2% increase from Q3/Q4 2020)

Number of patients treated with dangerous combinations (benzodiazepines, opioids,
carisoprodol): 35 (increase of one patient from Q3/Q4 2020)

Delinquent Reporters

Providers who directly dispense are required to report daily. A letter clarifying the status of the providers who indicated they are directly dispensing will be sent after all the PDMP registrations have been processed. When the next compliance report is generated in July 2021, a list of delinquent reporters will be sent to the board staff with sample letters from the Board of Pharmacy.

Recommendations

- Encourage increased reviewing, including the use of authorized delegates.
- Provide guidance to licensees on prescribing practices related to the use of dangerous combinations.
- Issue periodic reminders to licensees on mandatory reviewing and reporting.

Contract Updates

- A Communications Module allowing provider-to-provider communication within the PDMP will be launched soon. The quick start guide is complete, and instructions will be in the updated AWARxE user manual. Launch date TBD.
- We were recently notified of additional grant funding available to purchase the Provider Outlier Module. This module will identify prescribers whose prescribing habits could potentially have negative repercussions on their patients.
- We are discussing the Delinquent Reporting Notice with the states who have implemented the system and are anticipating enabling this feature once license renewals have completed. This enhancement will send notices to providers when at least one day of reporting is missed.

MME Use

Q4 2020/Q1 2021

The CDC recommends that primary care clinicians should reassess evidence of the benefits and risks to the individual when increasing dosage to greater or equal to 50 MME/day and avoid increasing to

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greater or equal to 90 MME/day when possible due to an increased risk of complications. The CDC also recommends avoiding concurrent benzodiazepine and opioid prescriptions, given the high risk of adverse drug-drug interactions, specifically respiratory depression and death.

CDC checklist for prescribing opioids -

https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/portals/5/pub/PDMP_OpioidPrescribeCDC_06.2018.pdf

CDC guidelines for prescribing opioids for chronic pain -

https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/portals/5/pub/PDMP_OpioidPrescribeCDCPain_2018.10.pdf

Provider Type	# Providers Prescribing at Least Once	# Providers Who Reviewed 0 Patients	# Providers Prescribing >90MME	# Providers Prescribing >120MME	Dangerous Combo	
					Benzo Opioid	Benzo Opioid Carisoprodol
DEN	329	55% (181)	7% (23)	3% (9)	26% (84)	0
MED	1093	22% (235)	14% (151)	14% (150)	35% (384)	2% (21)
NUR	537	19% (100)	11% (59)	7% (35)	24% (130)	2% (10)
OPT	5	80% (4)	0	0	0	0
PA	336	18% (61)	17% (58)	11% (38)	27% (92)	2% (6)
VET	191	71% (135)	2% (4)	1% (2)	4% (7)	0